

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to delete changes made in Applicants' April 30, 2004, Response. Thus, no new issues are raised since this subject matter has already been examined, considered and re

The Office Action again rejects claims 1, 3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yates et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,171,626). The Office Action also again rejects claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious Nakajima (U.S. Patent No. 6,409,606) in view of Yates et al. These rejections are traversed.

The pending claims require, *inter alia*, a "filter reinforced plastic pipe reduced in thickness and increased in diameter by pultrusion process, comprising a fiber bundle spun and aligned in a longitudinal direction and circumferential reinforced fiber sheet..."

In the previous Amendment, claim 1 was amended to limit the circumferential reinforced sheet as being provided on an outer surface layer of the fiber bundle. Applicants have removed the previous Amendment to claim 1, thus placing the claims in their original form.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art does not teach or suggest a pipe subjected to both a pultrusion process and containing a fiber bundle that has been spun.

Yates et al. actually teaches that the "various layers can be applied in the appropriate position and configuration by filament winding, tape wrapping, tube rolling, or pultrusion" (col. 6, lines 26-30, *emphasis added*). Thus, the presently claimed invention is not anticipated by Yates et al.

As Nakajima et al. does not teach or suggest both pultrusion and spinning steps. Applicants respectfully submit that the presently claimed invention would not have been obvious over the combination of Nakajima et al. and Yates et al.

Additionally, Yates fails to disclose that an fiber reinforced pipe (FRP) is inserted into a metal pipe. In opposition to Yates, the present invention discloses that the FRP pipe is inserted into the metal pipe. A power transmission shaft in the present invention has the metal pipe. In addition, Yates discloses that the layer having the fibers disposed at angles. The draft shaft of Yates has a multiple layers structure. In opposition to Yates, the power transmission of the present invention does not have the layer having the fibers disposed at angles. In particular, the power transmission of the presently claimed invention does not have the layer having the fibers disposed at angles but requires a circumferential reinforced fiber sheet.

Yates discloses the filament winding method. But a circumferential reinforced fiber sheet cannot be manufactured from the filament winding method. The reason is as follows. The reinforced fiber sheet is intertwined by the discontinuous fiber when the reinforced fiber sheet is an unwoven cloth, the reinforced fiber sheet cannot be manufactured by the filament winding method that uses a consecutive continuous fiber. Moreover, because a general fiber sheet is intertwined mutually by a fiber when the reinforced fiber sheet is not an unwoven cloth, the reinforced fiber sheet cannot be manufactured by the filament winding method of wrapping the fiber bunch that lines up in one direction.

Nakajima fails to disclose a circumferential reinforced fiber sheet provided at least either on an outer surface layer or on an inner surface layer.

The layer having the fiber disposed at angles of Yates does not correspond to circumferential reinforced fiber sheet of the present invention. Therefore, the presently claimed invention, which require a circumferential reinforced fiber sheet, is not achieved by the combination of Yates with Nakajima.

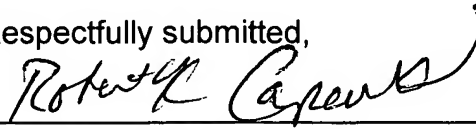
For at least the above reasons, the presently claimed invention is not anticipated by and would not have been obvious over any of the applied references, alone or in any combination. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to Counsel's

Deposit Account 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 100725-00070. Thus, please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, making reference to Attorney Docket No. 100725-00070.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert K. Carpenter", written over a horizontal line.

Robert K. Carpenter
Registration No. 34,794

Customer No. 004372
ARENT FOX, PLLC
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Tel: (202) 857-6000
Fax: (202) 638-4810